

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2021 AT 8.15pm**

Present: Councillors N. Nutkins (Chairman)
P. Hearn
B. Patterson
R. Ransley
H. Piper

Also present L. Housden (Town Clerk)
D. Slade (Deputy Clerk)
Cllr. R. Hollinghurst
Ian Brownell (Allotment Association)
Greta Brown (Chilterns Society)
Shelley Savage (TDLHMS)

20745. APOLOGIES

P. McDowell (Prior engagement) and Barr Kazer (Tring in Transition - Prior Engagement)

20746. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

20747. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes as circulated.

20748. MATTERS OF REPORT

Nothing to report

20749. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

There had been an electric explosion on Longfield Road and could the Deputy Clerk contact the UK Power Network and ask if an electrical survey could be carried out on the other properties in the street to check their safety.

A letter had been received from Bishop Wood School asking if they could become involved with Tring Town Council's climate change working party. This would be discussed at the next working party.

20750. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present

20751. TDLHMS PRESENTATION ON HEDGEROW SURVEY

The survey was a collaboration between TDLHMS and Tring in Transition and there were two parts. 1. To survey hedgerows which could be subject to future planning applications noting their biodiversity and historical importance. They had then been registered as significant hedgerows. 2. To update the 1995/97 map

showing greenery, open spaces, significant trees and hedges street by street. They would like to encourage people of Tring to appreciate their hedges, grow more and would like to establish the amount of hedges in Tring and work out how much carbon they were absorbing. They would be requesting a small amount of funding from the Council to obtain measuring equipment, photocopies of maps, coloured pens and printing cards explaining who they were and what they were doing.

Part 1 Allotments

20752. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

- Excellent response to allotment renewals – most rents paid direct into bank
- Some plots relinquished and have subsequently been re-let
- 3 vacant plots will be cleared and re-let
- Skip ordered from Waste King (managed on site by Allotment Association)
- Woodland Trust tree pack has been received – trees being cared for by Town Warden and will be planted in Spring
- FofMW going really well – 2 excellent days with the new mower reclaiming meadow areas. 13th Nov and 18th December – tree thinning. Plots to be marked out for wildflowers as part of Tesco Bags for Help grant.
- NALC Publication ‘What can local councils do on climate change’ had been circulated for information.

RESOLVED: To note the Deputy Clerk's report as presented

20753. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Chairman reported the following:

The jointly funded skip had been a great success and everyone had followed the rules.

An AGM had been held and the following raised:

They would like to have their plant sale on Church Square on 21st May 2022

The 23rd July 2022 had been set for their summer show.

A request for a compostable toilet had been made but this would be given greater thought for instance where would it go, how would it be maintained etc

There were a lot of dogs messing on the allotments and temporary signs had been placed on the walk throughs.

RESOLVED: to note the report as presented

20754. POLYTUNNEL

A request from a plot holder to have a poly tunnel was considered. The arguments in favour included: Only a temporary structure, not cheap so more likely to look after, no such restrictions on other sites. The arguments against included: would breach height restrictions, similar size to shed which was not allowed, not every site would be suitable to have one, would be an eyesore if damaged. It was proposed that it be agreed subject to strict conditions.

RESOLVED: The Deputy Clerk to obtain advice from the allotment association if allotment conditions can be changed part way through the year or if this would have to be done at the end of the term. Once information is obtained a decision could be made.

cllr Hearn left the meeting at 8.55pm

Part 2 Environment**20755. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY**

A meeting had been held on 14th October 2021 and the following recommendations were made:

- (i) to review the Council's Environment Policy
- (ii) the Clerk to report on the process required for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. A report with the options available was circulated prior to the meeting.
- (iii) To consider if a Carbon footprint assessment for Tring Council should be budgeted for.
- (iv) To consider joining the Dacorum Climate Action Network

RESOLVED:

- (i) To accept the policy without any amendments
- (ii) To refer back to the next climate change working party meeting so that the options can be discussed in greater detail.
- (iii) Not to budget for a carbon footprint assessment but to follow the objectives set out in the Environmental Policy.
- (iv) The Town Council to join the Dacorum Climate Action Network.

20756. TOWN WARDEN REPORT

- Cleared plots at allotments as became vacant ready for re-letting
- Liaised with lighting contractor for Christmas lights
- Liaised with Christmas Tree supplier on Church Square
- Routine maintenance of all TTC holdings
- 2 new litter bins delivered and will be installed by the contractor

RESOLVED: to note the Town Warden's report

20757. RIGHTS OF WAY

The following report was given by Greta Brown:

- The Chiltern Society volunteers had repaired the steps at Hastoe Lane under the bridge and had cleared the overgrowth at path 36.

RESOLVED: to note the report from the Chiltern Society

20758. TRING IN TRANSITION

The following report was read out from Barr Kazer:

- Thermal heat imaging is continuing
- the Community garden has two new young helpers who bring their toddlers which is good to see
- The Repair shed trial run was successful, with many helpers
- They are also looking at the new proposals from Harrow Estates and hope to respond by objecting to any building on green belt land adjacent to AONB, and too many houses.

RESOLVED: to note the report from Tring in Transition.

20759. DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM:

Two matters had arisen from recent meetings. The first Biodiversity Net Gain which was a proposal that larger developers should leave the development site in a better condition than it started in. Currently there is no legal obligation for them to do so. For instance at the LA5 development Hedgerows had been removed. The second was heat pumps as an alternative to gas boilers. They were reverse refrigerators costing around £10,000 with a lifespan of 10 years. A UK government grant of £5,000 was available.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact CALA Homes and ask how they intend to proceed to restore the Biodiversity on the site when they finish the development.

Shelley Savage left the meeting at 9.10pm

20760. HASTOE LANE VERGE PARKING

It was considered if works should be done to prevent parking on the verges eg wooden posts or to enable parking eg grass crete and the possibility of removing trees and replanting them was raised.

RESOLVED: to pursue County Councillor Symington in respect of grass create options for surfacing and Town Councillors to visit the site when they had the opportunity to do so.

20761. QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

The committee need to think of a location to plant a specimen tree with a bench surround to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

RESOLVED: A location will be considered and decided at the next meeting.

20762. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) It was discussed if the budget still needed to include funding for replacement water pipes for the allotments and gate/fencing for the entrance. The water had been working well recently but nobody was sure about the condition of the pipes under the ground. Money should be put up in case works were needed in the future. No one wished to pursue the allotment entrance.

(ii) The proposal to use CIL monies to improve footpaths and create dual use cycle/walking routes was discussed.

RESOLVED:

(i) To recommend £5,000 be placed in earmarked reserves for the water pipes at the allotments. The sums for the water pipes and fencing to then be removed from the budget for next year.

(ii) To recommend to the full Council that a project to improve footpaths and provide dual use cycle/walking routes should be part funded from CIL monies. If agreed a meeting could take place between all parties involved and details discussed at the next Buildings, Assets and Infrastructure committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman